

In re: Brader-Araje *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/549,370
Filed: April 13, 2000
Page 4

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of updating information maintained at an intermediary web site on a computer network about items being auctioned at a plurality of remotely located auction sites on the computer network, wherein the information is displayable to users accessing the intermediary web site via the computer network, the method comprising:

obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites, wherein each auction site includes a data engine that is configured to obtain data about each item currently being auctioned at the respective auction site, and wherein the intermediary web site includes an agent that is configured to communicate with and retrieve auction item data from each auction site data engine, comprising:

establishing a TCP/IP connection between the agent and each respective data engine; and

sending an HTTP request from the agent to each respective data engine via the TCP/IP connection to obtain auction item data that has changed since a previous time; extracting keywords from the obtained auction item data via the agent; and

storing the extracted keywords via the agent, wherein each stored keyword is associated with an item currently being auctioned at a respective one of the plurality of remotely located auction sites, and wherein the stored keywords are searchable by users accessing the intermediary web site.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time is performed at predetermined time intervals.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim [[3]] 1 wherein the data engine at each auction site comprises a data file configured to store cyclic redundancy checking (CRC) values for static and dynamic information about each auction item being auctioned at the respective auction site, wherein static information comprises an identification

In re: Brader-Araje *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/549,370
Filed: April 13, 2000
Page 5

of an auction item, wherein dynamic information comprises at least one of bid information and price information associated with an auction item, and wherein obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time comprises the following performed by each respective data engine:

determining whether the data file contains a CRC value for each item currently being auctioned;

storing CRC values in the data file for each item currently being auctioned that does not have a CRC value in the data file; and

sending static and dynamic information to the intermediary web site for each item currently being auctioned that does not have a CRC value in the data file.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 4 wherein obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time further comprises the following performed by each respective data engine:

generating new CRC values for each item currently being auctioned;

comparing the new CRC values with CRC values stored within the data file for each respective auction item;

storing the new CRC values for each item currently being auctioned in the respective data file if the new CRC values differ from the stored CRC values; and

sending to the intermediary web site current information for each item currently being auctioned.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of updating information maintained at an intermediary web site on a computer network about items being auctioned at a plurality of remotely located auction sites on the computer network, wherein the information is displayable to users accessing the intermediary web site via the computer network, the method comprising:

obtaining data about each item currently being auctioned at each respective auction site, wherein each auction site includes a data engine comprising a data file configured to store cyclic redundancy checking (CRC) values for static and dynamic information about each auction item being auctioned at the respective auction site, wherein static information

In re: Brader-Araje *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/549,370
Filed: April 13, 2000
Page 6

comprises an identification of an auction item, wherein dynamic information comprises at least one of bid information and price information associated with an auction item;

sending a request from the intermediary web site to the plurality of respective data engines to obtain auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites, wherein the intermediary web site includes an agent that is configured to communicate with and retrieve auction item data from each auction site data engine;

obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites, comprising the following performed by each respective data engine:

determining whether a data file contains a CRC value for each item currently being auctioned;

storing CRC values in the data file for each item currently being auctioned that does not have a CRC value in the data file;

sending static and dynamic information to the intermediary web site for each item currently being auctioned that does not have a CRC value in the data file; and

updating the information maintained at the intermediary web site with the static and dynamic information received from each respective data engine, comprising:

extracting keywords from the received static and dynamic information via the agent; and

storing the extracted keywords via the agent, wherein each stored keyword is associated with an item currently being auctioned at a respective one of the plurality of remotely located auction sites, and wherein the stored keywords are searchable by users accessing the intermediary web site.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6 wherein sending a request from the agent to each of a plurality of respective data engines is performed at predetermined time intervals.

In re: Brader-Araje *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/549,370
Filed: April 13, 2000
Page 7

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6 wherein obtaining auction item data that has changed since a previous time further comprises the following performed by each respective data engine:

- generating new CRC values for each item currently being auctioned;
- comparing the new CRC values with CRC values stored within a data file for each respective auction item;
- storing the new CRC values for each item currently being auctioned in the respective data file if the new CRC values differ from the stored CRC values; and
- sending to the intermediary web site current information for each item currently being auctioned.

10-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) A method of updating information maintained at an intermediary web site on a computer network about items being auctioned at a plurality of remotely located auction sites on the computer network, wherein the information is displayable to users accessing the intermediary web site, the method comprising:

- obtaining at the intermediary web site, from a plurality of data engines that are configured to obtain data about items currently being auctioned at a respective plurality of the auction sites, auction item data that has changed since a previous time for auctions currently being conducted at the respective auction sites;

- extracting keywords from the obtained auction item data; and
- storing the extracted keywords via the agent, wherein each stored keyword is associated with an item currently being auctioned at a respective one of the plurality of remotely located auction sites, and wherein the stored keywords are searchable by users accessing the intermediary web site.